PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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A DECISIVE STEP.

SO important for INDIA, and so far-reaching in its general influence on the course of the war was the news broadcast from DELHI last Monday about the Anglo-Russian action in IRAN, that we have decided to print this stop-press note in place of the Lecture that usally occupies our first few pages.

We shall devote more space to details in another issue; for the present we append a few of the main implications of the Allied action, plus some facts, about the country of IRAN itself.

1. The German thrust along the Black Sea, for one reason or another, but mainly because of the known presence of a strong Fifth Column in privileged positions in IRAN, threatened the sovereignty of that country, and in doing so threatened the back door to both the Russian Caucasian regions, and the British position in the MIDDLE EAST and in INDIA.

2. Unsatisfactory and dilatory replies to representations made by both BRITAIN and RUSSIA showed that the Iranian Government was either unwilling or unable to remove that threat. The rapid fall of NORWAY, HOLLAND, BELGIUM and YUGOSLAVIA, and the hardly-averted rape of IRAQ and SYRIA, seem to point no moral to the Shah and his Government, and since parallels and proofs were of no avail, the two Powers have been FORCED to take stronger action in their own defence—one of them, at least, on behalf of many peoples whom she has undertaken to defend.

3. If the German advance in the UKRAINE is held up as it may be now that the weather has begun to change for the worse—there is evidence that the Germans have plans to duplicate their attempt on the oil of the Caucasus, by a drive through TURKEY. With IRAN in their hands, the isolation of TURKEY would have been practically complete. The Anglo-Russian move will keep a most valuable door open.

4. Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill made a most important vow to keep RUSSIA supplied with every possible form of war material. The Arctic Sea in winter is not a very good route, nor is the long journey *via* VLADIVOSTOCK With the Persian Gulf and Iranian land routes under control, that problem too will be simplified.

5. The British-American declaration of 'no territorial aggrandizement' in any circumstances is a very recent and a very sincere announcement. The Russian Government's promise to withdraw from IRAN directly it is safe to do so is a corollary even more recent. *The independence of Iran is only threatened from one direction, viz from Berlin*, and it is most devoutly to be hcped that the people of IRAN will see, as speedily as did the 'invaded' peoples of IRAQ and SYRIA, that their Government has played the game of ineffective neutrality too long for their own safety or the welfare of humanity.

6. As to INDIA, Muslim, Hindu and Christian alike, she may both sigh with relief that a grim threat is being removed, and smile with pleasure at the compliment paid her in that this reasoned and important piece of work is going to be la gely hers. Germans and German dupes will be her enemy, not trading friends or co-religionists in IRAN who value independence and liberty; Indians will be as relentless to the former as they will be considerate to the latter.

FACTS REGARDING IRAN.

I. GEOGRAPHY AND CLIMATE.

Geographically Iran can be divided into three distinct areas: the Caspian provinces in the north, the high Central Plateau and the Persian Gulf littoral at the top of the Gulf.

(a) The Caspian Provinces. The terrain in this area is low-lying and so abundantly covered in trees and dense undergrowth as to be often impenetrable. The coast is fringed with a chain of sandhills, piled up by the surf and winds, which have forced the rivers and many streams to spread themselves out in wide morasses and lagoons. Temperature and rainfall are always moderate, but excessive humidity from June to September makes conditions very relaxing, and mosquitoes render the lowlands almost uninhabitable. From November to the middle of April the climate is temperate and healthy.

(b) The Central Plateau. This large area covers two-thirds of Iran and has a mean altitude of from three to four thousand feet. The greater part consists of mountains which run in numerous parallel ranges, generally from north-west to south-east. Some of these ranges run for over 100 miles at an altitude of 8,000 feet, rising in places to 15,000 feet. In the centre of the plateau is a strip of desert, 800 miles long and from 100 to 300 miles wide, also running from north-west to south-east. The country-side is arid and bare, though heavy snowfall in winter keeps the hillsides green, and affords grazing, while the valleys almost invariably contain streams of clear and fast running water.

There are extreme ranges of temperature, but the atmosphere is clear, dry and invigorating. From December to February snow falls everywhere and lies on the highest mountain ranges until June or July. The changes in season are very sudden, and the hottest months are July and August, when the average maximum shade temperature is 105° F. Dust, glare, flies and sandflies are the worst features of the summer. The rainfall is scanty and variable, generally occurring in November.

(c) The Persian Gulf Littoral. The terrain is a flat, alluvial plain, broken in only one place near Ahwaz by a 30-mile range of sandhills rising to 200 feet. The level open plains are mostly barren and sprinkled with desert scrub, though some parts are cultivated. Between the coastal plain and the central plateau is a strip of very mountainous country, the Bakhtiari Range, which is extremely difficult for motor transport to negotiate.

The heat from June to September is intense, and the humidity renders the climate particularly trying. In December, January and February it is cold, but freezing point is not reached. The rainfall occurs from November to February, and averages 5 inches.

II. POPULATION.

The population of Iran amounts to some ten millions, made up of a number of distinct Iranian races, the Kurds, the Lurs and Bakhtiaris, the Quashgais and the Kurgelous. These still retain their distinctive ethnological and linguistic characteristics. Seventy-five per cent of the population are engaged in agricultural pursuits, and the remainder form an urban class of artisans and small tradesmen.

The majority of Iranians profess the Shi'a branch of the Mohammedan faith ; the Kurds, however, are mostly Sunni. The Shi'a branch of Islam was constituted the state religion of Iran in 1499. Zoroastrianism was the original religion of Iran until the Arab conquest. As a result of the ensuing persecutions many followers fled to India where they are now known as Parsis.

III. TOWNS.

There are only four towns in Iran which have more than 100,000 inhabitants—Teheran, the capital (over 500,000) Tabriz, world-famous for its carpets (200,000), Isfahan, the central trade depot, (103,000), and Meshed, the famous Shi'a pilgrim centre (125,000). This city is the only one in the whole of Iran of any special religious significance to the Moslem world in general.

Other important centres are Ahwaz, capital of the south, Resht, through which most of the Caspian Sea trade passes, and the ports mentioned below.

IV. PORTS.

The Chief Iranian ports on the Persian Gulf are Bandar Shahpur, Khorramshahr, Abadan and Bushire. Bandar Shahpur is situated about 30 miles from the open sea, and is the southern terminus of the Trans-Iranian Railway. Khorramshahr is the Headquarters of the Iranian Navy. Abadan is the oil port and refinery of the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company, and is as modern, in many respects, as an English industrial town. On the Caspian the chief port is Pahlevi; there are also ports at Naushahr and Bandar Shah, the northern terminus of the Trans-Iranian Railway.

V. RAILWAYS.

The Trans-Iranian Railway 868 miles in length, crosses the country from Bandar Shah in the north to Bandar Shahpur in the south. As an engineering feat it represents a considerable achievement, running as it does for a considerable part of its length through very difficult country. It is a single-track line all the way. From Teheran a branch line runs north-west as far as Zinjan, and this will eventually be extended to join the line which runs from the Russian frontier to Tabriz. A branch line to Meshed is also under construction, and has reached Shahrud.

VI. ROADS.

The Iranian Government has attached great importance to the development of its roads, and in spite of the difficulties of finance, the great distances to be covered and the mountainous nature of the country, its efforts have met with considerable success, and a network of roads covers the country and connects all places of importance. The basis of this net-work of roads is the rectangle Kazvin-Teheran-Qum-Hamadan, and it will be seen that all roads leading into the country join up with this rectangle. The main routes leading into Iran are :—

(a) From Trans-Caspia : A railway runs from Merv to Sarakhs, and thence there is a road through Meshed to Teheran. This, however, is a very round-about way of reaching the important part of the country.

(b) From Caspian Ports: All three ports, Bandar Shah, Naushahr and Pahlevi are joined up to the rectangle by road, and the first by rail as well.

(c) Through the Caucasus: There is a railway and a road from Julfa to Tabriz, from which a good road runs to Razvin, and a not-so good road to Kermanshah and Hamadan. It would also be possible to go by road from Julfa round the western shores of Lake Urmia (Daryacheh-i-Shah), through Haiderabad, to Kermanshah.

(d) From Anatolia: There is a difficult road from Erzerum to Maku and thence to Tabriz.

(e) From Iraq: There are three main roads into the country from Iraq. The most northerly one runs from Rowandus to Haiderabad, the central one from Khaniqin to Kermanshah and Hamadan, and the third from Basra to Khorramshah and Ahwaz, then northwards to Hamadan and Teheran.

VII. OIL.

The oil areas in Iran, leased by the Iranian Government to the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company until 1993, mostly lie in the plains of Southern Arabistan at the head of the Persian Gulf. There is another small area at Naft-i-Shah, on the Iraqi-Iranian border, north west of Baghdad. Pipe-lines run from the two oilfields to refineries at Abadan and Kermanshah. The Naft-i-Shah field is also connected to Khaniqin in Iraq.

The importance of the oil industry to Iran is demonstrated by the fact that the oil royalty paid to the Government amounts to some £ 4,000,000 annually, this being about 10 per cent of the total national revenue. In addition, many Iranians occupy lucrative positions under the Company, and the railways obtain cheap fuel. The output from the Abadan refinery is the largest in the East, and in 1931 amounted to 10,000,000 tons.

VIII. ECONOMIC CONDITIONS.

The economic situation in Iran has not been satisfactory in recent years. The great efforts of H. I. M. the Shah to develop the resources, industries and communications of his country, which have necessitated the import of large quantities of materials from overseas, have led to a considerable increase in taxation, with a resulting rise in the cost of living. There has recently been a severe food shortage in the provinces, and in 1941 famine was only avoided by importing large quantities of wheat from India. Although the exchange is officially "pegged" at about Rials 5 to the Rupee, a "black" market exists in which the rate of exchange is nearer Rials 14 to the Rupee.

IX. THE ARMED FORCES.

The strength of the Army, which is conscript, is 126,000 officers and men, organized in 18 divisions and a mechanized brigade. Iran possesses considerable quantities of modern military equipment, but the Army has had little opportunity of using it, and so far none at all against a well equipped enemy. The Iranian Army, like the Russian Army until recently, is one about whose fighting value little is known.

The small Air Force has approximately 125 aircraft. Iran also possesses a few small naval vessels stationed at the head of the Persian Gulf. Assistance was given by Italy in the training of Iranian naval personnel.

LECTURE LIX.

THE WAR IN THE AIR

FROM THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN TO THE BATTLE OF GERMANY.

IS the Battle of BRITAIN becoming the Battle of GERMANY? Optimistic students of the air war think it is. Others, more cautious, believe that Nazi raids during the coming autumn will be heavier than any which BRITAIN experienced last year. Yet, a third school holds that, notwithstanding the fierce battles of past months—battles which have almost invariably gone in favour of the R. A. F.—the real trial of strength is yet to come. These latter observers claim (somewhat against the evidence) that the *Luftwaffe* has not so far exerted its full might against the R. A. F., and that one side or the other has still to beat its rival decisively in the air, before turning its attention to overwhelming attacks on ground targets.

Before trying to decide which belief is justified by the facts, it is as well to remember one very important difference between the R. A. F. and the *Luftwaffe*. In essence, the R. A. F. is a separate fighting body, independent of both Navy and Army, while the *Luftwaffe* has in general been used primarily as the air-wing of the German Army.

This conception of an air force as a distinct entity, going forth on its own to seek out and destroy the enemy wherever he may be found, is an essentially British one—hence the R. A. F.'s " master plan " for the progressive pulverizing of the Nazi war effort, irrespective of what the Royal Navy and the Army may be doing.

This does not mean, of course, that the R. A. F., never co-operates with its sister Services—DUNKIRK, the battle of the Libyan coast, MATAPAN and the hunting of the *Bismarck* are some examples of such co-operation. Nevertheless, and despite its comparatively late development, the R. A. F. seems from its very beginnings to have been regarded as a new fighting force, intended to wage war on its own and in its own way. Its independence has been increased, too, by the recent expansion of the Fleet Air Arm, and the present development of Army Co-operation units—factors which leave the R. A. F. still more free to follow its own devices.

The *Luftwaffe*, on the other hand, has all along been regarded as the precursor of German military victories; its job has been to fly ahead of the armies, beating down the enemy's troops and spreading panic among enemy civilians, but leaving the main operations to the ground forces. It neither welcomes nor enjoys straight encounters with an opposing air force, and has hitherto shown more ferocity than skill in its operations against enemy war-potential.

Broadly speaking, then, the R. A. F. is intended to fight its own wars, the *Luftwaffe* to help the German armies fight theirs.

GERMAN SUCCESSES TO DATE.

The *Luftwaffe* has massive successes to its credit. In the earliest days of the Polish campaign, it dealt the enemy staggering blows from which no recovery was possible. It was the spear-head of the German drive through the Low Countries and FRANCE; beneath its swarms of dive-bombers, the Belgian Army surrendered and so did the Dutch, the French Army crumbled and the B. E. F. had no alternative but to evacuate. In NORWAY, GREECE and still more in CRETE, the Allies were beaten chiefly because the *Luftwaffe* ruled the skies above and behind the battlefields.

The German air force thus appears to have gone on from triumph to triumph, fulfilling in campaign after campaign the purpose for which it was called into being. But appearances are notoriously deceptive. The *Luftwaffe* has built up a long record of successes—but not an unbroken one; **its triumphs have been won only when it has had no serious opposition** *in its own element* **to contend with.**

TREACHERY AND TERRORISM.

Take the case of POLAND, whose own air force (though inferior in numbers) might have been expected to put up a good show against Hitler's airmen. It was smashed, but not in the air. In a series of treacherous attacks on Polish aerodromes early on September 1, 1939, *without any declaration of war*, the *Luftwaffe* decisively crippled its rival, and was thence forth

free to concentrate on attacking Polish troops deprived of their own air support, and on the still more congenial task of bombing Polish towns, villages and even isolated farmsteads, and machine-gunning Polish civilians.

Thus it was that the *Luftwaffe* won its first laurels. For those laurels, dusty with deceit and stained with innocent blood, Polish airmen serving with the R. A. F. are exacting an ever-increasing price.

THE MEANS AND THE END.

In the Lowlands campaign, the *Luftwaffe* won its own place in history with its attack on ROTTERDAM. In the undefended centre of this open city, on the afternoon of May 14, 1940, some 30,000 men, women and children were killed in the course of an air raid which lasted 30 minutes. It was the fate of ROTTERDAM, and the certainty that what had happened there would happen in other Dutch cities, which decided the Netherlands Commander-in-Chief to surrender. Once again the *Luftwaffe* could claim the honour of being the precursor of a German military victory ; not until its bombardment of BELGRADE was it to rise to anything like such heights again.

Do not blame the individual German airman—at least, not too much. He is part of a gigantic machine built to win victories, and operating on the theory that whole peoples (and all peoples) can be battered and bludgeoned into surrender. So far, that machine has been strikingly successful ; peoples have collapsed, armies have surrendered, vast tracts of territory have passed under the Swastika, because the *Luftwaffe* has darkened the skies with smoke and reddened the earth with blood. On paper at least, on the map of EUROPE, the policy of Hitler and Goering has been justified.

Nor have all the successes of the German air force been achieved against civilians, or by means of treachery alone. In co-operation with the German army, it has won notable victories of a more legitimate sort. The Nazi invasion of NORWAY, and the Nazi sweep through FRANCE, were triumphs of co-ordination in which the *Luftwaffe* played a valuable part. That both these successes were largely helped—particularly in the case of FRANCE—by unremitting attacks on the civil population does not diminish (however much it may besmirch) the value of the *Luftwaffe's* contribution to victory.

WHAT HAPPENED IN FRANCE?

In the French campaign, Hitler's most glittering triumph to date, how much serious air opposition had the German air force to overcome—how much, in fact, did it overcome ?

The British bomber squadrons which had been based in FRANCE from the outbreak of the war were not there to fight the German Army ; they were

there because FRANCE was nearer than BRITAIN to GERMANY, and was therefore a better place from which to carry out their job of bombing the Nazi war-potential within the Reich itself.

The rest of the British air force in FRANCE was there presumably to help the B. E. F. fight its battles; let us admit that there was not enough of it, that the French were also short of planes, and that in any case the Nazis had up their sleeves a form of combined land-and-air tactics for which the B. E. F. and the R. A. F. were neither sufficiently numerous nor prepared. The Germans must be given every credit for the *blitzkrieg* idea; it has helped them to win more campaigns than that of FRANCE alone, but it has not yet won the war.

As soon as the Nazis began to batter their way through FRANCE, the British heavy bombers rose from their French air-fields and winged their way back to BRITAIN, to continue from British aerodromes their job of hammering at Hitler's home bases. The British and French fighters and light bombers which remained behind were hopelessly outnumbered by the advancing Germans, but they put up a stand which was none the less glorious, for being unavailing.

THE LUFTWAFFE'S FIRST DEFEAT

It was not until DUNKIRK that the *Luftwaffe* had its first defeat. There, in theory at least, Hitler's airmen should have destroyed King George's soldiers utterly, or at any rate brought them to their knees and flung them as easy victims to the encircling German armies. That nothing of the sort happened was due to two things—the plain refusal of the B. E. F. to crack up under hellish aerial bombardment, and the success of British Defiants, Hurricanes and Spitfires in reducing that bombardment to endurable dimensions.

By that time, of course, the British fighters were again based on British soil. They flew across the seas in relays, and they rescued the B. E. F. in a series of air battles which will go down in history as **the first major clash between two air forces of even distantly comparable dimensions, fighting each other** *in their own element.*

The result was a victory for the R. A. F. Proof of this was, primarily, the fact that the B. E. F. got safely home; but even more significant, from the point of view of aerial warfare, was the other fact that the fighters—operating under any but ideal conditions, outnumbered and far from their bases—played havoc with Goering's bombers and fighters. Official British estimates give the highest single day's bag of that battle as 78 Nazi planes; unofficial estimates put it as high as 200. What matters is that the British fighters established at DUNKIRK a qualitative superiority over the enemy which they have never lost.

AFTER DUNKIRK.

There was little licking of wounds after DUNKIRK for either air force The R. A. F. was, perhaps, quicker off the mark—after all, its bombers had their "master plan", which the retreat from FRANCE had not essentially interfered with (though the loss of French bases was, and is, a harassing blow); whereas the haphazard nature of Nazi raids on BRITAIN during the weeks which followed DUNKIRK suggested no sort of immediate plan.

It was during this interval, between DUNKIRK and the start of the *blitzkrieg* on BRITAIN, that the fundamental difference between the two air forces became more apparent than ever before. **While the *Luftwaffe* contented itself with rather pointless "nuisance raids", the R. A. F. began to fight the war on its own and in its own way.** Night after lengthening night from late June onwards, its bombers profited by their leaflet and reconnaissance raids of the preceding winter by flying ever deeper into the heart of GERMANY, dropping their bombs on the RUHR and the RHINELAND and the Reich's north-western sea-board, blasting factories, munition works, oil refineries and—above all—communications.

In making these raids, the R. A. F. was not clearing the way for a British invasion of GERMANY; it was not worrying overmuch about the German army or navy or air force; it was concerned chiefly with making things very difficult for GERMANY as a whole, and particularly with making it difficult for Germans and German goods to move about in GERMANY. It was fighting the war, was the Bomber Command, on its own and in its own way.

THOSE "INVASION BASES".

There were those in the R. A. F.'s inner councils, of course, who were worrying (and to some purpose) about the German army, navy and air force; for the R. A. F. was perfectly aware that the *Luftwaffe*, and its sister services had a big job on hand. The *Luftwaffe*, for instance, was busy establishing itself in newlywon airfields in FRANCE, BELGIUM, HOLLAND and NORWAY; the German army was rolling up in its hundreds of thousands to the ports which looked out across the North Sea and the English Channel to the shores of BRITAIN; and to those ports the German navy was cautiously convoying numerous small merchantmen and barges which were intended, in the fullness of time, to carry to British shores the first invading army to set foot there since 1066.

Thus the "invasion bases", from Southern NORWAY to the PAS-DE-CALAIS and even further south, began to figure more and more in the R. A. F.'s nightly visiting-list. And what a visiting-list it was—and is; never before has so varied a collection of places well-known or unfamiliar appeared in any war communiqué. There were the marshalling-yards at HAMM, where one bomb

nicely placed can throw out of gear RUMANIA'S railway time-table as well as GERMANY'S; the great viaduct on the Dortmund-Ems canal, most heavily-defended objective in all the Reich; HAMBURG'S mile upon square mile of docks and warehouses; munition works in CZECHOSLOVAKIA as well as at ESSEN; and, of course, those invasion bases, from CHRISTIANSUND to CALAIS and beyond. Seldom has so much geography been compressed into so few sentences.

THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN BEGINS.

The *Luftwaffe*, for its part, was not inactive, though the Battle of BRITAIN had an unimpressive opening. From July, by day as well as night, small groups of Nazi planes began to fly over the island fortress, dropping their bombs in "a surprisingly erratic manner".*

It is improbable that these inland "nuisance raids" had any special object, beyond the hopeless one of upsetting British civilian morale. The raids on ports and on convoys along the coast were more comprehensible and certainly more intense, though they never in those first weeks approached the scale and intensity of latter raids. Still fiercer attacks were made against British aerodromes, especially those lying behind the south-east corner of ENGLAND, but not even there, in "Hell's Corner", was a single R.A.F. station put out of action for long enough to matter.

By mid-August, however, the Battle of BRITAIN was warming up. Invasion had been fixed for mid-September, and Hitler paid his deadliest foes the compliment of setting aside a whole month for their preliminary reduction. After-dark raids grew noticeably heavier, anything up to 100 bombers coming over each night and dropping plenty of bombs—but at random, and doing remarkably little damage.

THE DAYLIGHT ONSLAUGHT.

Meanwhile, on August 8, the mass daylight raids began in earnest, and at once the Nazis got an unpleasant shock. They lost 60 planes that day, another 60 on August 11 and 62 the following day. Hordes of bombers escorted by fighters poured across the Channel, but the Hurricanes and Spitfires tore through their formations like a knife through calico—which was what it sounded like, too, from the ground. On August 13, the R. A. F. destroyed 78 Nazi planes for the loss of only 13 fighters.

August 15 saw the culmination of this first German daylight offensive; more than 1,000 planes attacked aerodromes in south-east and north ENGLAND, TYNESIDE, the Thames Eustuary and the LONDON area. When it was all over, the *Luftwaffe* had lost 180 machines, the R. A. F. 34, with 17 pilots

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* Ronald Walker, FLIGHT TO VICTORY a Penguin Special.

saved. There was another 1,000-plane attack two days later, this time mainly against the aerodromes of Hell's Corner, when 153 raiders were lost for 22 R. A. F. fighters and 10 pilots.

The Luftwaffe had been beaten again. It had failed altogether to bear down its enemy by weight of numbers; it had not administered the knock-out blow which was the essential preliminary to a successful invasion; what was still more galling to men who were at their best when bombing open towns and machine-gunning women and children, it had sustained heavy casualties. The high speed of Goering's bombers—his Junkers 88's, Heinkel 111's and Dornier 215's—had not saved them from the wrath of the Hurricanes and Spitfires; even his much-vaunted dive-bomber, the Junkers 87, had proved an easy victim.

THE BATTLE OF LONDON.

There was no real lull during the remainder of August, but the Germans were seeking feverishly after new tactics. Night bombing increased, for the Nazis (as always) were seeking a soft spot and a safe one, and the casualties in night raiding had so far not been heavy. But their airmen had not been trained for scientific (as opposed to haphazard) night raiding, and their adoption of these new tactics was a definite admission that their mass day light raids had failed.

On September 7 the Battle of BRITAIN became the Battle of LONDON. Goering, hurrying to Northern FRANCE to speed up the assault on an island which unaccountably refused to succumb to his usual overtures, sent upwards of 1,000 machines against the Greater LONDON area during the afternoon and evening of that day; he lost 103 of them, **but much damage was done, great fires were started and many people killed.**

During the next three days the assault continued, but on the night of September 11 the greatest anti-aircraft barrage in history turned the bombers away. But there is no doubt that, just then, **the Nazis verily believed that they had found in LONDON the soft spot they had been seeking. How wrong they were the whole world knows to-day, though any Cockney urchin could have told them as much at the time.**

INVASION WEEKEND.

On Saturday, September 15, the *Luftwaffe* launched its heaviest attack upon BRITAIN. It was invasion weekend, and at all costs Goering's bombers and fighters must blast a way through for the German army. For hours on end that morning there crossed the cliffs of South ENGLAND a continuous, orderly procession of Dornier bombers, Heinkel bombers, Messerschmitt fighter-bombers and Junkers dive-bombers, all escorted by turning and twisting Messerschmitt fighters. Before long they were back again, but not in

formation—and this time it was not only the fighters which were turning and twisting ; as fast as it could fly (and some of it could no longer fly very fast) the German Armada of the skies was getting back to its bases in Northern FRANCE, with the Hurricanes and Spitfires on its tail.

Of the more than 1,000 Nazi planes which crossed the coasts of BRITAIN that day, at least 230 were destroyed, and the R.A.F. had won its greatest victory of the war.

A SPEAR-HEAD BLUNTED.

But not only the *Luftwaffe* took a nasty knock that weekend. So far, neither the British nor the German Government has uttered a word on what really happened on the other side of the Channel. But the Americans (and, by this time, the vast majority of British and French people) firmly believe that the Nazi troops went aboard their invasion barges—either in real earnest or for a full-dress rehearsal—that the R.A.F.'s night bombers caught them in the act, and that of those barges which actually got to sea, not one escaped the Royal Navy.

What actually happened ? We don't know ; all that we know is that on Saturday, September 15, the *Luftwaffe* was blasted out of the British skies to such a tune that never again has it sought to become the spear-head of a military invasion of the British shores. Never again did the Nazis come in such numbers, or try to repeat the battering tactics of the lightning war. Instead, they settled down to a long-term policy of pounding away at BRITAIN by night, on lines roughly analogous to the R. A. F.'s " master plan " against GERMANY, but neither so scientific nor (there is now reason to believe) so successful.

All through the late autumn and winter, whenever the weather allowed, they raided British towns and cities, particularly British ports, from great heights and with varying results. It is useless to deny that much damage has been done, that thousands of people have perished, that much that was beautiful (and not a little that was ugly) upon the face of BRITAIN has been erased for ever. When the Nazis lose their tempers, as they did at COVENTRY or in the famous fire raid on the City of LONDON, they leave indelible marks. And not only in the Battle of BRITAIN proper has the *Luftwaffe* proper played its part; its long-range bombers have flown far out into the Atlantic, supplementing the efforts of Hitler's U-boats to strangle the islanders who, by all Hitler's canons, should have succumbed in September, 1940.

And what of the R. A. F. itself in the months which have followed the invasion that didn't come off ? Unlike the *Luftwaffe*, the R. A. F. has not had to adopt a long-range policy at short notice; it has always had one, and it

follows it to-day. German factories, German docks and shipyards, German munition works and oil refineries, above all German communications of every kind—these are still the favourite targets of British bombers.

BY DAY AS WELL AS NIGHT.

While elsewhere, in AFRICA and the NEAR EAST, the R. A. F. has been having its triumphs and disappointments, making history and making mistakes, seeking out the foe wherever he may be found, its bombers at home have carried on with the main task, that of hitting the Germans in GERMANY. To-day those bombers are bigger and better than last year, their bombs heavier and much more lethal; **a single British raider flying over Germany these nights carries nearly as big a load of death and destruction as a whole squadron did last winter.**

Nazi night raids, on the other hand, have this summer been notably slight. Many reasons have been advanced—most plausible among them being BRITAIN's radio location and Hitler's Russian campaign. It is worth remembering, that if not a single German machine had been moved from Western EUROPE to the Russian front, the R. A. F.'s "master plan" would have been carried on just the same.

The R. A. F.'s striking-arm was trained primarily to strike by night; for years it concentrated on after-dark navigation and bombing, attaining therein an almost incredible degree of expertness and accuracy. It was this hard-won skill which stood it in good stead last year, when still grievously outnumbered, it inflicted in its night raids a much higher proportion of worth-while damage than the *Luftwaffe's* indiscriminate mass raids were able to achieve.

Now the R. A. F. is striking by daylight, too. Hell's Corner has crossed the Channel, and to-day it is the Nazi bases in the PAS-DE-CALAIS which are assailed morning and afternoon by fast Blenheims and their deadly fighter escorts. Enemy shipping, too, creeping along the occupied coasts from NORWAY to BISCAY—and betraying by its very presence in those troubled waters the chaos of GERMANY'S much-bombed internal communications—suffers increasingly as the weeks go by.

THE CHANGING SCENE.

The Reich itself is no longer immune by day. Air and naval bases in the FRISIAN ISLANDS have long been familiar with day-time British bombers, whose activities now extend inland, so that there is a corner of North-West GERMANY which is beginning to be a serious rival to the PAS-DE-CALAIS itself. Hell's Corner may soon have a northern annexe.

Has the tide of battle turned at last? It is still too early to decide. Throughout June and July, as we have seen, hopeful things have been happening, and Hitler's eastern preoccupations have given the R. A. F. an unlooked-for chance to use its mounting strength to build up a daylight offensive as tremendous as that which it wages by night. For its strength is mounting, day by day. Its warplanes, American as well as British, have improved out of all knowledge—and they were always good; now they are more numerous, as well as better.

This applies not only to the bigger and better bombers, for the Spitfires and Hurricanes, which are chasing the vultures out of French skies, are vastly different from those of the same name which swept clean the English skies last autumn. They are faster, deadlier, more manoeuvrable, and they are reinforced by others—by the Defiants which, on May 10, bagged a record number of night raiders, by the Havocs which in recent months have harried Hitler's carrion back to their French bases, by others whose names and deeds are not yet familiar to the world.

In the Battle of the Atlantic, that grim extension of the Battle of BRITAIN, the R. A. F. has been in the thick of things. Only after the war will the full story of the Coastal Command be told, but even to-day, out of the mists which shroud that titanic struggle, there emerges occasionally the exploit of some lone Sunderland or Catalina to remind us that the R. A. F. still seeks out the enemy wherever he is to be found.

MEN WHO WILL SLAY THE MONSTER.

With the men of the R. A. F. lies the future of the civilized world. No bloodier tyrant than Hitler has ever menaced that future, but no tyrant in history has ever been withstood by so gay and gallant a company of adventurers. The young men of BRITAIN and her Empire were not born with hatred in their hearts, nor were those from the tortured countries of EUROPE who to-day are flying with them; if there is hatred in their hearts now, it was put there by Hitler and the twisted souls he has raised up in his own dark land—that land which the R. A. F., slowly perhaps but methodically, in its own time and its own way, will turn into a wilderness of desolation rather than suffer Hitler and his kind to endure.

In November of last year, General Kabisch warned his fellow-Nazis through the newspaper *Koelnische Zeitung* that their air force could not win the war, adding: "We must therefore strengthen our army, **as the air blitzkrieg will not be decisive.**"

No British officer has found it necessary to warn us that the R. A. F. cannot win the war!

SIDE LIGHTS.

V

THE FATEFUL HOUR

AN APPRECIATION OF THE SITUATION.

SELDOM in History has a month or so of time been so pregnant with fate as the few weeks before us. We are at the "great divide" of the greatest of all wars. Decisions are imminent in a struggle which is no longer a war between nations, but a fight to the death between two parts of the human race—the part which believes in progress by means of voluntary co-operation on the basis of respect for personality, and the part which preaches the yielding to that craving unhappily inherent in human beings, the craving to perpetuate their own personality by the forcible enslavement of themselves and everyone else to their barbarous system. It is a fight to the death of Progress against Reaction, of Racial Equality against Racial Superiority, of Individuality against the Machine.

And up till now the balance has been weighted in favour of our enemies, because they were the first to harness the dreadful potentialities of modern scientific development to their enslaving purpose, and because "the centrifugal tendencies of the freedom-loving communities have weakened their capacity for corporate advance." It is only because Nazi-ism is an anachronism, a 'sport' among political theories, a dire throw-back to barbarism, that world sentiment is cohering and hardening to accept the ghastly challenge.

We deliberately use the phrase 'world sentiment' because the world is involved. EUROPE, ASIA, AFRICA, the AMERICAS and the Antipodes all have their futures directly at stake. Before the accumulation of this world-sentiment can become panoplied and irresistible, the Germans MUST strike with all their power, with tanks, aircraft and intrigue in every quarter of the globe that offers a chance of even a temporary victory, in the effort to break up a fast maturing Humanity Front.

HITLER'S DREAM. The first essential for GERMANY is to defeat RUSSIA. She knows it, and is still confident that she can do it. If she cannot do it before the end of this year, her spirit like her armies will suffer an unhealable wound.

The Germans therefore fling million after million of the flower of their youth into the maw of Moloch ; they sneer and brag and call up millions more to carry their 'victorious' line nearer to LENINGRAD, nearer to MOSCOW, nearer, to KIEV, nearer to SEBASTOPOL, nearer to the CAUCASUS, nearer to IRAN nearear to INDIA—not because the territories they overrun yield them their money's and their lives' worth, not because they want or hope to wipe out the Russian race, but because waiting the issue of the greatest battle of history, stand half a dozen countries whose allegiance and resources will be a German prize unfought-for, if the Russian armies lay down their arms.

The South Russian battle in particular is momentous to a degree. A decisive German victory there would transform the picture for JAPAN, who is only waiting to be sure of a Russian defeat to set the FAR EAST ablaze. With GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA thus inevitably involved, VICHY would hesitate no longer ; North and West AFRICA would be handed to Hitler on a platter. TURKEY might, as she swears she will, fight for her independence, and IRAN pretends that her neutrality is not threatened, 'but does anyone think,' asks Hitler, 'that mouthfuls such as these would be unchewable if my armies were in the CAUCASUS and AJERBAIJAN ?'

Such are the outlines of the German dream. The battle of RUSSIA is the Battle of the World. In VICHY, in TEHERAN, in ANKARA, in BANGKOK, in TOKYO, in AMERICA—and how the list of neutrals has already shrunk—the hour of decision is at hand.

THE DREAM-BREAKERS RUSSIA herself is the dream-breaker-in-chief......... She may have yielded thousands of miles of earth to the Hun, but it has been 'scorched earth'. Her armies may have suffered heavily, but they are still great armies with great reserves behind them, with great leaders to lead them and a great spirit to maintain them. Neither in the field nor in the towns and factories, nor at the seats of government, has control ever been lost. Her resources are greater than the Germans' ; her lines of communications are progressively shorter ; the toll she has already taken of her enemy is terrific ; her determination to withstand them and destroy them is ferociously indomitable. "*Ils ne passeront pas*" is the spirit of warrior and workman, of man and woman, alike,—and now Winter comes speedily to her aid.

Other brakes on the chances of German victory this year are nearly as formidable.

British, American and Soviet co-operation is building up an Anti-Axis front, extensive in range, and infinitely more solid, than the combination of mutually distrustful powers, now in being, or contemplated by the Axis. The Churchill–Roosevelt meeting between two men who have each realised in far greater detail than we can show here the issues at stake in RUSSIA, have been able to issue to the world a Declaration which must be as frightening and hateful to the Axis as it is confident and inspiring to the Allies.

The Anglo-Russian démarche to TURKEY marks the end of a period of long estrangement and suspicion between MOSCOW and ANKARA, just as the signing of the Russo-British Trade Agreement is a speedy earnest of our new alliance.

We are not yet allowed to know the wording of the second British and Russian joint representation to the Government of IRAN on the inadvisability of the retention of Nazis in key positions in that country—but it was the second of its kind, and in ordinary diplomacy such a step within so short a time of the first would betoken a very agreed and confident programme on the part of the aggrieved Powers.

JAPAN, like VICHY, finds something in the situation which warns her still to delay the plunge she stood poised on the springboard to make, now many weeks ago. She is apparently more convinced that the British-American step-for-step plans in her regard lack nothing in resolution or preparedness, than she is that the Germans must win in RUSSIA, and all the time, in the countries already overrun, signs multiply, and multiply again, that all is not well with the imposed administrations. Law-breaking, defiance, social boycott, the 'V' campaign, sabotage, from one end of conquered EUROPE to another, show the Germans only too clearly that not only in front of them, but behind them are forces, however repressed or retreating at the moment, that are resilient and insuppressible, and will remain so until the Nazi ogre is a foetid corpse.

Such are the issues, as we see them, of the Battle of RUSSIA. If this statement serves to remind every man, woman, and boy of our readers that what is wanted, NOW, is effort, calm courage, and full realisation of what is at stake, the 'V's we print at the beginning and end of it will be neither wishful thinking nor idle boast.

V

THE EIGHT POINTS. Occasionally a declaration makes world history. Nearly three milleniums ago for instance, Moses came down from the mountain with the Ten Commandments cut and dried—for ever. 725 years ago a sulky king was induced by *force majeure* to subscribe to another imperishable document called Magna Charta. Last week, from the middle of a perilous ocean, Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill sanctioned a Declaration which has caught the imagination of mankind as a whole, and which became history even as it issued from Mr. Attlee's lips.

It is difficult to know quite what constitutes immortality. The Ten Tables have been condemned and breached far more widely than they have been observed. Magna Charta doesn't appeal much to the Germans or the Japanese nowadays, nor used it to the Russians, or the Belgians in the CONGO. Similarly, just in what respects three such totally different ideologies as those held by BRITAIN, the U. S. A. and RUSSIA a couple of years ago are going to be able to accommodate themselves practically to the joint execution of the ideals enunciated in the British-American Declaration remains to be seen.

Yet even for those who mistrust idealistic programmes, and point to another American's Fourteen Points to show how disastrous such can be, there is something in this latest pronouncement which does strike human imagination rather than the wishfulness of any particular cause, something which must compel the attention, however unwilling and sardonic, of those outlaws from the Human Race, the leaders of the Axis Powers.

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POINTS ABOUT THE POINTS. Just a year after Hitler declared a total blockade of BRITAIN, the President of the UNITED STATES and the Prime Minister of GREAT BRITAIN discuss world issues in the North Atlantic. The proof as to who does control the Atlantic is convincing and picturesque enough!

The Fourteen Points were President Wilson's own. They did not even command universal approval in his own country, let alone among the then Allies. The Eight Points are not unilateral. They are the agreed principles of the two great Democracies, and *they bind the two principal anti-Nazi Powers in advance.*

Half a dozen points in President Wilson's manifesto created misunderstanding, admittedly because "they exhibited particularity without precision." The Eight Points deal carefully and solely with general principles and broad issues.

Note the difference between this statement of Peace aims, and a Peace offer! The Eight Points may have been timed to anticipate a Peace offer from Hitler, but there is no "Peace offer" in Clause Two, which insists on no

territorial changes without the consent of the people concerned, freely expressed; or Clause Three which stipulates the restoration of all conquered peoples; or, very particularly, Clause Eight which provides for the "disarmament of aggressor nations"!

The public denial of any wish for aggrandizement of any kind disposes all suggestions that either BRITAIN or AMERICA are engaged in an 'imperialist' war.

"Free access to raw materials" and "freedom of the seas" for everybody seem to be an official departure from the gospel of 'big business', in favour of one of the principal tenets of theoretical socialism.

The possibilities of general disarmament (after that of the aggressor nations) seem to be sketched in the renunciation of force as a means of settling international disputes, "on realistic as well as spiritual grounds."

JAPAN was recently branded by U. S. A. as an aggressor nation after her seizure of INDO-CHINA. She should therefore digest that "disarmament" promise!

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THE TIME RACE IN RUSSIA. No good purpose would be served by any detailed estimate of the gains or losses in RUSSIA. The success of the German central forces' drive southwards to concentrate with their southern armies in a great thrust against General Budenny in the southern UKRAINE has led to the usual claims of enormous victories, crippling captures and impending dissolution of the Soviet government by BERLIN commentators.

We may generalise somewhat as follows :—

(i) The Germans *had* to make some major effort before Winter, to restore the confidence of their armies and their people. They have made—or rather, are making it in the South, with something like 200 divisions of which no fewer than 45 are Panzer divisions.

(ii) They have had considerable success, probably at very great cost to themselves. KIRVOGRAD, NIKOLAIEV and PERVOMAILSK are among the highly important industrial centres they have captured from the Russians. ODESSA, an even more important place to the Russians, is certainly cut off, since NIKOLAIEV is some 70 miles to the East of it, and close to the Black Sea—but the German claim of the capture of this port is mere wishful thinking.

(iii) In the North, German pressure on LENINGRAD increases—from three or four points of the compass. The Russians have evacuated KINGISEPP, only 75 miles to the north of the ex-capital. The Germans *may* have severed the LENINGRAD-MOSCOW railway about the same distance away, but S. E. by E. of the city.

The next ten days should show whether (*a*) the famed defences of the greatly important industrial country round LENINGRAD will be able to delay the Germans until the weather breaks, and (*b*) whether the Russians will first sacrify and then sacrifice the whole of the prolific UKRAINE in the bend of the Dnieper, and use the mile-and-a-half wide river as their next great defensive position—or go on fighting with the river and the sea at their backs, again in the hope that winter will mess up the long German communication lines.

The favourable factors that emerge from this rather depressing catalogue are that:—

(*a*) There appears to be no 'quislingism' in RUSSIA, not even in the UKRAINE. The Russian armies are fighting, and the people working, as though 'surrender' or 'compromise' were not in the dictionary.

(*b*) The German losses in men and material are *terrific*.

(*c*) The 'scorched earth' policy is being so faithfully carried out that German gains in many rich districts have been hardly more than territorial ones. If Budenny has destroyed the great Dnieper Dam, for instance, most of the western UKRAINE will become a flooded morass.

(*d*) Russian mobilization has been efficient enough to keep their great armies in the field replenished; those armies are being so ably handled as to avoid forced capitulations; and so far from "all Russian reserves being flung into the firing-line" being the truth, the opportunity for great counter-attacks is being eagerly watched for and foretold by neutrals, while American and British munitions of all kinds are being swiftly multiplied.

(*e*) President Roosevelt—and he *ought* to know—says quite confidently that the Russians will be well able to fight on powerfully through the winter. Can the Germans?!

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ICHABOD! "The glory is departed" from FRANCE. The great Republic becomes a Fascist sub-state; a once fine soldier becomes a drivelling figure-head, a Hindenburg; an unscrupulous sailor-politician becomes a Gauleiter (and sees himself a second Hitler!). And because they both know that the people they profess to be 'rescuing' secretly condemn their slippery parleyings with FRANCE'S natural and historic enemies, every device of the purulent Nazi régime is to be used to enforce the diabolical bargain. Adversaries of the 'new order' are to be 'decimated'; authority (Darlan's) is to be exercised from above, and not from below through the people's representatives; parties and political groups

(including trades unions ?) are to be dissolved; Parliament is disestablished; Freemasons (and Jews ?) are to be victimised; the Cabinet is to be 'purged'; and Police powers are to be doubled to make them more like the Gestapo!

So much for an inspiring domestic programme!! Abroad treachery to FRANCE's allies in every possible way is what Marshall Pétain considers appropriate to FRANCE's 'instinct of liberty'! French naval and military establishments in AFRICA and elsewhere are to be handed over to German control—including, of course the Fleet. A Franco-German condominium in AFRICA, with joint armies equipped on the basis of experience in LIBYA, will see to it that NIGERIA, SIERRA LEONE and the GOLD COAST are taken from BRITAIN and given to FRANCE (i.e. GERMANY!). EGYPT (if you please) is to be given to ITALY instead of the juicy bits she previously claimed from FRANCE. And all FRANCE has got to do to achieve this dream is 'to be a good boy' (which happens to imply also the permanent cession to the Third Reich of her beloved ALSACE and LORRAINE).

Vraiment, C'est Peu Agreable.

P. S.—It is hardly to be doubted that since these fell schemes have long been known to American and British authorities, despite the bland denials of M. Henri Haye in WASHINGTON, they were one of the subjects which Mr. Roosevelt and Mr. Churchill talked about at their mid-Atlantic (?) assignation. Nor need it be feared that an adequate counter is not prepared against any recognisable German move. But 'the honour of FRANCE'..............?!!

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DOTTING THE I's In case the above is too general to convince, we add a few authenticated details.

It is clear that Pétain and Darlan are prepared to make FRANCE a working partner of the Axis. Darlan is eager to go the whole hog at once. Pétain and Weygand are still nervous of the effects of rupture with the U. S. A.

Accordingly the Marshal seems to have gone only so far as to agree to admit the Germans into BIZERTA. (This would halve the sea-line between SICILY and LIBYA, and leave TUNISIA open to the Hun.)

French sovereignty over CASABLANCA and DAKAR (and is some of the French gold reserve in the latter port ?) is a matter of the closest interest to AMERICA. Pétain and his friend and confidant, Weygand, are at least procrastinating over the surrender of these bases to Hitler. No, doubt they are watching the Russian war. It would be easier and safer to refuse the Germans their longed for extension of submarine bases, if they find themselves in the toils of a Russian winter, and the disgraced and trampled spirit of FRANCE begins to lift its head. As to the probabilities of this, the reader might refer back to the opening paragraph of these "Side lights".

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

21—8—41 to 29—8—41.

Iran has got what she wanted, what she deserved, and has paid the price of fraternisation with the Nazi. The days of flirtation are gone for those who would sit on the fence and look on with Janus-face. The Allies, having learnt a bitter lesson from IRAQ and SYRIA, have now realised that kindness in war-time is misplaced, and are in no mood to stand such nonsense any more. Prompt action is the surest antidote to luke-warmness. Thus have BRITAIN and RUSSIA, in their new alliance taken military action in IRAN. It came about as follows :—

The Genesis of the trouble is clearly set out in the Russian note to IRAN of August 25 which points out how Nazi Saboteurs and terrorists had not only infected IRAN but infiltrated into the adjoining Soviet districts of BAKU and AJERBAIJAN. They were neither tourists nor business men as they professed, but intriguers who had come to convert IRAN into a German military base. Gammot and Mayers, formerly German mischief-makers at IRAQ, Rashid Ali, the rebel, and the disaffected Chief Mufti of JERUSALEM, were all busy plotting a coup in co-operation with the German embassy at TEHERAN. Dumps of arms and ammunition had been established on the Iranian-Soviet frontier, and German agents and residents were being given a military training.

The Three-Warnings.—The present Anglo-Russian intervention was by no means a hasty measure. The Shah was not taken by surprise. Three warnings were given—on June 26, July 19 and August 16.

Iranian Prevarication.—But the Shah either could not or would not realise the gravity of the situation. The Iranian minister in U. S. A. denied the very existence of a German conspiracy, and the Shah at home called upon the army to be 'ready for any sacrifice'. The Iranian Prime-Minister put forward plea after plea—every one of them untenable. He first maintained that foreigners were registered and watched, and then stated that though the Germans were already a few, the Government had also taken special steps to reduce their number still further out of deference to BRITAIN. But the facts were

otherwise. The Germans who had infiltered were not a 'few' but thousands. The 'expulsion' which the Premier declared he had carried out was only a 'token' move, and the 'registration' of aliens was circumvented by systematic Nazi bribing. What was worse, the Shah, who had never travelled abroad, and was hardly approachable or visible even in his own country, was the last person to realise the world-wide Nazi menace which had swept many a stronger nation down the abyss. 'Strict Neutrality' which he claimed to practise was neither strict nor neutral, and the times were too critical to permit 'neutrality', which in effect was mere prevarication.

The Danger.—The Allies could certainly not permit this dangerous situation to continue. The German plot was not only to seize IRAN's oil-fields—the third biggest in the world, but also IRAN itself. The Germans occupying the key-posts in the industries and the essential services such as posts, telegraphs and railways were preparing a *Coup*. It was also their intention to use IRAN as a spring-board from which as soon as circumstances permitted, to attack INDIA and ARABIA, IRAQ, TURKEY, and EGYPT, the whole of the MIDDLE EAST and all the Arab world. The Nazi advance in the UKRAINE towards the CAUCASUS had brought this Nazi menace to a head. It was no time to play with fire.

Anglo-Soviet Assurances.—BRITAIN and RUSSIA have not taken the present painful but necessary step without assuring the Muslim world, and TURKEY and IRAN in particular, that the present military action was not a war on IRAN, but only a security measure taken against the German danger. There will be no interference with either IRAN's integrity, or her domestic economy or independence. On the other hand, BRITAIN would take every step necessary to secure her food, already depleted by Nazi intrigue, and replace the German technicians, so that Iranian industries may not suffer.

Strategic results.—Further, the joint occupation of IRAN by BRITAIN and RUSSIA will ensure the co-operation of the two countries against GERMANY, and provide a continuous front for the Allies from the Arctic Sea to the Persian Gulf. It will secure supply from INDIA, AUSTRALIA and the two AMERICAS, up the Red Sea and the Persian Gulf, through BASRAH, BUSHIRE, BANDAR-I-SHAHPUR, TEHERAN and TABRIZ to TURKEY and the CAUCASUS.

Military Measures.—.BRITAIN and RUSSIA invaded IRAN simultaneously on Monday the 25th, the Soviet thrust being directed from the CAUCASUS at TABRIZ. British and Indian troops under Indian (General Sir Archibald Wavell's) command but acting under direct orders from His Majesty's Government, entered IRAN at three points—at KHANAGIN, an important oil-field, KHORRAM SHAHR, the terminus of an important transport route, and ABADAN, which contains oil refineries. A small detachment occupied BANDAR-I-SHAHPUR, where a number of German and Italian ships lying in harbour were seized. Simultaneously, another body composed of British and Indian forces entering from IRAQ, took possession of the oil-fields at NAFT-I-SHAH and QASR-I-SHIRAN. Air-borne troops have descended to give protection to the British families working in the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company. There has been little opposition so far. British planes have dropped leaflets over the country, pointing out the object of the present military movements, which was not to convert IRAN into a seat of war but to expel the Germans. The leaflets say:—

'Iranians! thousands of Germans are living in your country. By a calculated plan they are holding important positions in industry. When Hitler gives the word they can sabotage the main sources of your revenues. They are organised by the German legation, and every man has special orders. You know they stirred up trouble in IRAQ. They will not hesitate to do the same in IRAN.

'This is exactly what happened in many European countries before they were invaded by GERMANY. Those in authority in IRAN have ignored our repeated warnings.........

'We are determined that the Germans must go, and if the Iranians do not throw them out both BRITAIN and RUSSIA will. Our forces are irresistible.

'Iranians! we have no quarrel with you, nor have we any designs on your country or your goods. We only wish to drive out these accursed Germans.'

Another leaflet contains the following further message to the people of IRAN:—

'Iranians! BRITAIN and RUSSIA have demanded the expulsion of the German agents in your midst because they are the precursors of war. Like you, we wish to see peace preserved in IRAN. We wish peace for our own sake. You must desire peace for yourselves.

"What does war mean? German agents prepared the way for German armies in NORWAY, HOLLAND, BELGIUM, POLAND, RUMANIA, GREECE. Then war came, and Germans occupied those countries. They had been rich and prosperous. Now they are starving.

"When German conquest is easy, the Germans prey upon the conquered lands like locusts. The fruits of the soil are reserved for the victors and the vanquished go hungry. Where there is resistance, the land is laid waste.

"Had the Germans had time to secure a hold upon IRAN before the arrival of the British troops they would, to hinder our advance, have destroyed not only railways and roads built at the cost of the taxes you have paid, but the towns and villages of IRAN in which you live.

"They would have slaughtered your cattle, burnt your crops, and turned IRAN into a desert.

"From such a fate we will save you, as we have saved IRAQ and SYRIA. We do not want your food. We will bring food for those who need it, as we are doing in SYRIA. We do not want your goods, but will open your ports to trade, as we are doing in IRAQ. We come as friends, armed only against the common enemy."

According to the latest reports, the Shah has changed his cabinet, ordered his troops to cease fire, and informed the British minister in TEHERAN of his willingness to expel all Germans within a week, except a few technicians who could not be dispensed with at once. But the Anglo-Soviet operations are not likely to cease until the Axis menace has been completely removed.

The Battle of Russia, now in its 10th week, continues fiercely in all the chief fronts; but the third *blitz* after securing some indecisive results shows already signs of slackening and it is doubtful whether a fourth *blitz* can be launched before the approaching winter. The only results of the third *blitz* achieved so far have been the occupation of KINGISEPP, NOVOGROD and GOMEL; and perhaps of DNEIPRO-PETROVSK; but at what cost!—2 million in killed, wounded and prisoners, 8,000 tanks, 10,000 guns and 7,200 planes. It is now getting more and more evident that the Russian battle is going to be long and arduous, and will extend to the next spring, in spite of the supreme German efforts to finish it off in the next few weeks. Meanwhile German reserves are dwindling

while the Russian reserves are steadily rising, to hasten the day of the Nazi doom. As M. Lozovsky has stated, Hitler cannot win; the dying beast may deal some more heavy blows but clearly it *is* dying. The Nazi occupied cities in RUSSIA are a mass of ruins, with guerillas in the rear, and a whole nation breathing vengeance.

In a great counter-offensive General Koniev has retaken 9 villages in 48 hours and annihilated the 161st German division, capturing large quantities of men and material. His success amounts to a major German defeat. Besides dealing heavy blows on the enemy he has done much to relieve enemy pressure in other sectors, by compelling a redistribution of the enemy's dispositions.

LENINGRAD, now the chief target of enemy approach in the north has been converted into a veritable fortress. The recent rains have helped to change its approaches into a region of swamps and marshes.

Apparently the drive towards the Dnieper has been arrested on its west bank, and its great dam dynamited. This may not only halt the Germans at this point but also convert the lower UKRAINE into another swamp unfit for agricultural operations.

ODESSA continues to be a 'super-TOBRUK', a veritable thorn in the Nazi flank.

What RUSSIA now requires is not sympathy or admiration, but material aid, which both BRITAIN and the U. S. are already hastening to supply. Eleven shipments of aviation spirit are already on their way from SAN FRANCISCO. RUSSIA, in no mood against interference has already bluntly warned JAPAN against any obstruction to her supplies through VLADIVOSTOK. Adopting a long term policy, she has also placed her orders with AMERICA for the next spring.

THE 'NEW ORDER' AT WORK.

Lithuania, one of Germany's victims, was given a National Committee a few weeks ago, in order to induce her to obstruct the Russians by seizing bridges across the Memel, and after the help had been rendered, in true Nazi fashion, the Lithuanian leaders were taken prisoners, the Lithuanian Parliament was dissolved and the country has been placed under a dictatorship.

In **Poland**, the village of SKALA was completely destroyed by fire and the villagers shot because a 'communist' there had fired on a German military car.

In **Alsace** the death penalty will be inflicted on those who speak French or listen to foreign wireless stations. A sculptured wooden monument set up by the Germans in THANN (ALSACE) was found decorated with an inverted utensil bearing the inscription, 'Ersatz helmet presented to Hitler for his invasion of ENGLAND'.

A mysterious voice is frequently disturbing the Nazi Radio programme of late by shouting anti-Nazi speeches. On August 23, it said, 'Against Hitler stands the greatest Industrial Power in the world—the U. S. A. Against Hitler stands the greatest Sea-Power in the world—GREAT BRITAIN. Against Hitler stands the great Land Force in the world—the Soviet Union. How then can Hitler hope to win the war? I tell you that Hitler will bring nothing but sorrow upon you. Then destroy Hitler and make an end of his senseless war!'

Meanwhile Col. Britton has set up a new motto for the '*V*' *Army*. 'Go slow' he exhorts, 'After all why should you sweat for the Nazis. Work for yourself and your family is good, for the country better, but for the Nazis is simply suicide. The slower you work, the quicker you win. We in BRITAIN are turning the wheels faster and faster: You in EUROPE can help by turning them slower and slower'.

The so-called 'communist' trouble is growing in FRANCE. 1000 arrests have already been made in the neighbourhood of the CHAMPS ELYSEE alone on suspicion of communism. In FRANCE, it has now become the German fashion to dub every patriot striving to regain his country's freedom a 'communist'. But the fact is that apart from a few politicians the bulk of the people are anti-German, as is shown by the mass-arrests, anti-German demonstrations, acts of sabotage, the murder of a German officer, the establishment of special tribunals and the Nazi threats to shoot hostages. The latest instance of the disorder that is now general is the firing at Laval, FRANCE'S evil genius, and Marcel Deat at VERSAILLES by one Paul Colette on the afternoon of Wednesday (27th).

WAR AT SEA.

British losses at Sea in July and August were the lowest on record. The decrease, though not yet a certain indication that the Battle of the Atlantic has been won still constituted a temporary victory at least, especially at a season when the long summer days are favourable for submarine attacks. The U. S. occupation of ICELAND

and sea-patrol have helped to curb submarine activity. The Russian war may also have diverted the U-boats—at least some of them, to the Baltic. But complacency is premature: submarine warfare has its own cycles of activity and pause, being dependent on the number of boats available at the time, new defensive measures adopted and the enemy's new manoeuvres.

The figures which Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty revealed in a broadcast on August 22 show the splendid help which the Allies render BRITAIN at Sea. The Allied Navy, apart from the British, amounted to 190 fighting ships in all, manned by 1,200 officers and 13,000 men. The ships included destroyers, submarines and small craft belonging to the Free French (50), Norwegians (59), Royal Netherlands (50), the Poles (12) and Greeks. Allied mercantile shipping were :—

Dutch	480 Ships (2,250,000 tons).
Norwegians ...	720 Ships (3,250,000 tons).
French	92 Ships (400,000 tons).
Belgians ...	54 Ships (200,000 tons).
Greeks	240 Ships (100,000 tons).
Poles	32 Ships (100,000 tons).

25 merchant ships of a British convoy were attacked by enemy planes and submarines off CADIZ on Friday *en route* to GIBRALTAR. Of them 15 arrived safely at the TAGUS, 7 totalling 10,000 tons were sunk and a *corvette* was the only vessel lost by the escort. Of course the Germans claim to have sunk all the 25 ships, besides a destroyer and 2 other war ships.

Simultaneously comes the news of a naval attack, on an important cork forest (about 16 square miles) in North SARDINIA, setting it on fire and providing enough burnt cork, as has been humorously stated to give every Nazi a Hitler moustache.

The *Ark Royal* so often sunk by the Nazi Radio, steamed off VALENCIA for an hour giving an air display in the face of Italian warships which dare not oppose; but the best proof which the last few days afford of BRITAIN's command of the sea was the Roosevelt-Churchill 3-day meeting in mid-sea bristling with enemy craft, 'fooling the Nazis', and the glorious sight of a British Convoy which Mr. Churchill saw on his return voyage, carrying food and arms to BRITAIN, leisurely, as though it were a 'pleasure cruise'.

THE R. A. F.

The hammer blows of the R. A. F. on GERMANY and German occupied territories continue to be delivered with unabated vigour. KIEL, the Iron and steel works at IJMUIDEN in HOLLAND, and DUSSELDORF were the main targets of the week. The Germans have been asked by their authorities to develop 'good nerves' and go into the cellars till the nights become shorter. They are being told that there is no use having illusions in this respect: the suffering will continue.

THE GREAT BROADCAST.

Mr. Churchill's Broadcast on Sunday last, admirable as usual, and particularly reminiscent, this time, in its emotional and intellectual appeal, of the best classical oratory, constitutes a clear cut analysis of the needs of the hour as well as a picture, a Mirza—vision of a future world of peace and good will on earth. The following passages are extracts taken from the speech :—

SYMBOLIC MEETING.

"The meeting was therefore symbolic. That is its prime importance. It symbolises, in a form and manner which everyone can understand in every land and in every clime, the deep underlying unities which stir, and at decisive moments rule, the English-speaking peoples throughout the world.

"Would it be presumptuous for me to say that it symbolises something even more majestic, namely the marshalling of the good forces of the world against the evil forces which are now so formidable and triumphant, and have cast their cruel spell over the whole of Europe and a large part of Asia?

"This was a meeting which marks for ever in the pages of history the taking up by the English-speaking nations, amid all this peril, tumult and confusion, of the guidance of the fortunes of the broad, toiling masses in all continents, and our loyal effort, without any clog of selfish interest, to lead them forward out of the miseries into which they have been plunged, back to the broad high road of freedom and justice.

THE TIGER AND THE JACKAL.

"The most deadly instruments of war-science have been joined to the extreme refinements of treachery and the most brutal exhibitions of ruthlessness, and thus have formed a combine of aggression the like of

which has never been known, before which the rights, the traditions, the characteristics and the structure of many ancient, honoured states and peoples have been laid prostrate, and are now ground down under the heel and terror of the monster.

"The Austrians, Czechs, Poles, Norwegians, Danes, Belgians, Dutch, Greeks, Croats, and the Serbs and, above all, the great French nation have been stunned and pinioned.

"Italy, Hungary, Rumania and Bulgaria have bought a shameful respite by becoming the jackals of the tiger; but their true situation is very little different, and presently will be indistinguishable from that of his victims.

"Sweden, Spain, and Turkey stand appalled, wondering which will be struck down next.

THIS TIME IT WAS NOT SO EASY.

"Here is a devil, who in a mere spasm of his pride and lust for domination, can condemn two or three millions, perhaps it may be many more, of human beings to speedy and violent death. "Let Russia be blotted out! Let Russia be destroyed! Order the armies to advance!" Such were his decrees.

"Accordingly, from the Arctic Ocean to the Black Sea, six or seven millions of soldiers are locked in mortal struggle.

"Ah! But this time it was not so easy—this time it was not all one way. The Russian armies and all the peoples of the Russian Republic have rallied to the defence of their hearths and homes. For the first time Nazi blood has flowed in a fearful flood.

"Certainly a million and a half, perhaps two million, Nazi cannon fodder have bitten the dust of the endless plains of Russia. A tremendous battle rages along nearly a two thousand miles front. The Russians fight with magnificent devotion.

"Not only that. Our generals who have visited the Russian front line report with admiration the efficiency of their military organisation and the excellence of their equipment.

"The aggressor is surprised, startled and staggered. For the first time in his experience mass murder has become unprofitable. He retaliates by the most frightful cruelties.

THE AGGRESSION IN THE FAR-EAST.

"Japanese armies have been wandering about that vast land (China) in a futile excursion, carrying with them carnage, ruin and corruption, and calling it 'the Chinese incident'.

"Now they stretch a grasping hand into the southern seas of China. They snatch Indo-China from the wretched Vichy French. They menace by their movements Siam.

"They menace Singapore, the British link with Australasia, and they menace the Philippine Islands, under the protection of the United States. It is certain that this has got to stop.

"Every effort will be made to secure a peaceful settlement. The United States is labouring with infinite patience to arrive at a fair and amicable settlement, which will give Japan the utmost assurance for her legitimate interests. We earnestly hope that these negotiations will succeed.

"But this I must say. If these hopes should fail we shall, of course, range ourselves unhesitatingly at the side of the United States.

THE GOAL.

"The United States and Great Britain do not now assume that there will never be any more war again. On the contrary, we intend to take ample precautions to prevent its renewal in any period we can foresee, by effectively disarming the guilty nations, while remaining suitably protected ourselves.

"The second difference is this: instead of trying to ruin German trade by all kinds of additional trade barriers and hindrances, as was the move in 1917, we have definitely adopted the view that it is not in the interests of the world and of our two countries that any large nation should be unprosperous, or shut out from the means of making a decent living for itself and its people by its industry and enterprise.

THE "NEW ORDER."

"What is this 'New Order' which they seek to fasten first upon Europe, and if possible—for their ambitions are boundless—upon all the continents of the globe?

"It is the rule of the *herrenvolk*, the master race, who are to put an end to democracy, to parliaments, to the fundamental freedoms and decencies of ordinary men and women, to the historic rights of nations, and to give them in exchange the iron rule of Prussia, the universal

goosestep, and the strict and efficient discipline enforced upon the working classes by the political police, with German concentration camps and firing parties, now so busy in a dozen lands, always handy in the background.

"There is the new order.

CHURCHILL'S EXORTATION.

"Do not despair, brave Norwegians! Your land shall be cleansed not only from the invader, but from the filthy Quislings who are his tools.

"Be sure of yourselves, Czechs! Your independence shall be restored.

"Poles! The heroism of your people standing up to cruel oppressors, the courage of your soldiers, sailors and airmen, shall not be forgotten. Your country shall live again, and resume its rightful part in the new organisation of Europe.

"Lift up your heads, gallant Frenchmen! Not all the infamies, of Darlan and of Laval shall stand between you and the restoration of your birthright.

"Tough, stout-hearted Dutch! Belgians and Luxemburgers! Tormented, mishandled and shamefully cast away peoples of Yugoslavia! Glorious Greece, now subjected to the crowning insult of the rule of the Italian jackanapes! Yield not an inch!

ONE BY ONE.

"The question has been asked: how near is the United States to war? There is certainly one man who knows the answer to that question. If Hitler has not yet declared war upon the United States it is surely not out of his love for American institutions. It is certainly not because he could not find a pretext! He has murdered half a dozen countries for far less. The fear of immediately redoubling the tremendous energies now being employed against him is no doubt a restraining influence.

"But the real reason is, I am sure, to be found in the method to which he has so faithfully adhered, and by which he has gained so much. What is that method? It is a very simple method.

" "One by one." That is his plan. That is his guiding rule. That is the trick by which he has enslaved so large a portion of the world."

BRITISH and Russian Air Raids over ENEMY and ENEMY-occupied Territories.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
18—8—41. (Monday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	3 German patrol vessels off the DUTCH coast.	...	All the 3 vessels sunk.
	An industrial plant at LILLE ...	...	3 day fighters.
	Offensive sweep over the coast of northern BRITTANY.	...	...
	An aerodrome and enemy troops in Northern FRANCE.	3 day fighters.	Damaged.
	NIGHT :—		
	Industrial targets in COLOGNE and DUISBERG.	...	Large fires started.
	The Docks at DUNKIRK ...	...	...
	Enemy air fields in occupied territory	8 planes.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour at TRIPOLI ...	...	Fires started.
	A 9000-ton ship beached at LAMPEDUSA.	...	Left blazing.
	Enemy positions in GONDAR Area ...	...	...
	Hangars and depots at GONDAR ...	...	...
	The fort at DEBARECH ...	No. loss.	...
	(By Russian planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Enemy troops over the entire battle area.	...	...
	Air combats over the battle front ...	12 planes.	38 planes.
	BLACK SEA.		
	Two enemy transports in the Black Sea.	...	Sunk.
	GERMANY.		
	Military and Industrial objectives in BERLIN.	...	...
19—8—41. (Tuesday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	An offensive sweep over the Northern FRANCE.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
19—8—41.	(Tuesday).—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Coastal shipping at OSTEND	...	Many vessels hit and sunk.
	DAY :—		
	The railway yard at HAZEBROUCK ...	3 bombers and	14 day-fighters.
	Enemy shipping off the DUTCH Coast.	12 fighters.	
	NIGHT :—		
	The Naval Base at KIEL ...	...	...
	Other military objectives in Western GERMANY.	2 night-bombers.	...
	Aerodromes in occupied territory.	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy camp and transport at RASEL-MILH.	...	...
	(By Russian planes.)		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Mechanised units, Infantry, Artillery, aircraft on the ground and air combats throughout the entire Front.	8 planes.	27 planes.
20—8—41.	(Wednesday.)		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	An enemy aerodrome near AKNAR (HOLLAND).	...	One hangar received a direct hit.
	Patrol ships near the FRISIAN Islands.	2 day-fighters; but the pilot of one is safe.	...
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH-CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.		3 day-fighters.
	NIGHT :—		
	A supply ship off the Coast of NORWAY.	...	Directly hit.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour and a railway siding at BENGHAZI.	...	...
	Concentrations of enemy tanks near MERSALUCK.	...	Many tanks damaged.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
20—8—41.	**(Wednesday.)**—*cont.*		
	SICILY.		
	An enemy sloop off SICILY ...	...	Wrecked.
	Oil tanks, sea planes and balloons at SYRACUSE harbour.	3 planes ; crew of one plane safe.	...
	(By Russian planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**		
	Tanks, troops and air combats over the entire Front.	12 planes.	21 planes.
	GERMANY.		
	Military objectives in BERLIN ...	No loss.	Heavy damage.
21—8—41.	**(Thursday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	MORNING :—		
	Steel and Iron works at IJMUIDEN (in HOLLAND).	...	Direct hit on rolling mills and other parts of the factory.
	DAY :—		
	Industrial targets and railway Communications in the ST-OMER and BETHUNE areas.	...	Set on fire and blown up.
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	E-boats in the ENGLISH CHANNEL...	...	Many damaged.
	Air combats over Northern FRANCE.	14 fighters.	1 fighter.
	Enemy shipping off the French Coast.	No loss.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The harbour shipping and ware houses at TRIPOLI.	...	Heavily damaged.
	Enemy landing grounds at GAMBUT and MONASTIR.	...	...
	Aerodrome buildings and hangars at ASOSA.	...	Buildings hit.
	Motor transport near ASOSA	No loss.	...
	(By Russian planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**		
	Troops and air combats throughout the entire fighting area.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
22—8—41. (Friday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Enemy shipping and patrol vessels in the ENGLISH CHANNEL.	...	...
	Hangars and aircraft on the ground at an enemy aerodrome.	...	...
	Offensive sweeps over the ENGLISH CHANNEL and Northern FRANCE.	No loss.	2 fighters.
NIGHT :—			
	Industrial town of MANNHEIM ...	...	Fires started.
	The harbour at LE HAVRE ...	...	...
	The Docks at OSTEND and DUNKIRK.	...	Damaged.
	Aerodromes in occupied territory ...	1 plane.	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Motor transport on the Coast road between TRIPOLI and BENGHAZI.	...	Many vehicles destroyed.
	The harbour at TRIPOLI ...	...	...
	(By Russian planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**		
	Enemy vehicles, gun positions and Infantry, aircraft over the ground and air combats over the whole **fighting area.**	...	...
23—8—41. (Saturday.)			
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Docks and supply and petrol dumps at TRIPOLI.	...	Set on fire.
	The aerodrome at MELLAHA ...	...	Damaged.
	Enemy encampments in the SOLLUM, BARDIA, and GAMBUT areas.	...	...
	Two enemy schooners and an escort vessel in the Gulf of SIDRA.	...	One schooner and the escort vessel sunk; the other one damaged.
	(By Russian Planes). **EASTERN FRONT.**		
	Air combats, enemy mechanised troops. Infantry and Artillery along the entire fighting area.	Aug. 22 & 23. 39 planes.	Aug. 22 & 23. 52 planes.

Date.	Targets.	R. A. F. and Allied losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
24—8—41. (Sunday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Offensive sweeps over Northern FRANCE.	...	...
	Hangars, brracks, troops and gun-positions in Northern FRANCE.	No loss.	Heavily damaged.
	Patrolling over the north SEA.	1 plane.	...
NIGHT :—			
	Industrial objectives in DUSSELDORF.	3 bombers.	Heavy damage.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy positions and troops in the DEBERECH area.	...	Machine-gunned. Heavy loss to troops.
	(By Russian planes).		
	EASTERN FRONT.		
	Air combats and enemy troops along the entire batte area.	6 planes.	46 planes.

ENEMY Air Raids over BRITAIN, BRITISH Territories and RUSSIA.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air Force losses and results of air bombardment.
19—8—41. (Tuesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A town in the South-east coast of ENGLAND.	...	Only 2 casualties. No damage.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
MALTA	...	3 planes.	No damage.
20—8—41. (Wednesday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	A town in East ANGLIA ...	...	No casualties.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy air-craft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air Force losses and results of air bombardment.
20—8—41. (Wednesday).—*cont.*			
	RUSSIA.		
	Neighbourhood of MOSCOW ...	2 planes.	No damage.
	EGYPT.		
	SUEZ canal Area ...	...	2 killed and 28 injured.
21—8—41. (Thursday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	NIGHT :—		
	East coast of ENGLAND ...	1 plane.	No damage at all.
	MALTA.		
	FAMAGUSTA ...	...	1 civilian killed and 6 injured.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	British shipping off the EGYPTIAN Coast.	2 fighters and others damaged.	4 fighters, 1 pilot safe.
22—8—41. (Friday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	DAY :—		
	East coast of ENGLAND ...	1 plane.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	East coast of ENGLAND ...	...	No damage or casualties.
	HOLLAND.		
	Air combat off the DUTCH coast ...	1 plane.	No loss.
23—8—41. (Saturday).	**BRITAIN.**		
	NIGHT :—		
	No air activity at all ...	...	...
24—8—41 (Sunday.)	**BRITAIN.**		
	DAY :—		
	Two points in East ANGLIA ...	...	Slight damage and no casualties.
	NIGHT :—		
	East, North-east and South-east ENGLAND.	...	Very slight damage.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	British shipping in the MEDITERRANEAN.	1 plane.	No damage.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R.A.F. and Allied Air Force losses and results of air bombardment.
25—8—41. (Monday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
NIGHT :—			
	Two points on the Coast of South WALES. **One point** in South-west ENGLAND.	...	No damage ; Only a few casualties.
	AFRICA.		
TOBRUK	... ...	...	Only minor damage.
	EGYPT.		
ALEXANDRIA	... ...	...	3 people injured and only slight damage.

GERMAN "WAR OF NERVES" AGAINST TURKEY?

BULGARIA AS CAT'S-PAW.

QUESTION OF ATTACK ON THE DARDANELLES.

(*The Daily Express Special Correspondent from Istanbul cabled on July 14*).

There are indications that Germany, using Bulgaria as the puppet, is launching a war of nerves against Turkey—a campaign in which a few astute Turks see a looming threat to the Straits.

Istanbul newspapers—or, rather, what is left of them, six being suspended for giving away military information—published without comment a Tass Agency message from Moscow revealing the extent of Bulgarian concentrations and other military preparations near the Turkish border.

With a holiday spirit prevailing in Turkey since the signing of the pact with Germany, most of the ministers and deputies have scattered to various summer resorts; so it is difficult to get any official opinion on the subject.

A few weeks ago such a message from Moscow would have aroused intense excitement and resentment in Turkey, but it seems now that it is being taken rather too calmly.

Information available in Istanbul says that the Bulgarians have called to the Colours 15 or 16 divisions, but this force is generally considered to be hardly sufficient to launch an attack against the Straits, though the Germans are known still to have powerful mechanised units in Bulgaria.

The Turks hardly believe that, with their hands full in Russia, the Germans would contemplate opening another front against Turkey which would have the inevitable consequence of an attack on the Straits.

Germany would certainly like to have a free use of the Straits for the passage of her naval forces to the Black Sea to cover an eventual landing on the Southern Russian coast or a flank attack on the Caucasus, but it is doubted whether she would attempt to seize it at the risk of dragging Turkey in a war here.

GERMAN LOSSES OF AIRMEN.
HOW THEY CANNOT BE "MASS-PRODUCED"

The Times Aeronautical Correspondent estimates the German aircraft losses through British agency at **at least 6,000 and through the Allies at 1,500,** these figures excluding training accidents, crashes in setting out on and returning from operations, and machines damaged during battles. These losses in material must **have cost Germany the services of quite 18,750 men.**

Most German aircraft are turned out on mass-production lines, and it may well be that even the terrible wastage of 7,000 or 8,000 machines has been compensated by new building, for if the industry is highly organised, and if there are adequate supplies of raw materials, new aeroplanes can be turned out at a rate running into thousands monthly. It should not be forgotton, however, that for more than a year the R. A. F. has been pounding away at the enemy's industries and, what is perhaps almost as important, at her communications.

Though machines may be mass-produced, neither the Germans nor anybody else can find similar means of teaching men to fly, navigate, drop bombs, fire guns and work complicated radio sets. Cutting the training period to a dangerously small margin, flying crews require six months' tuition and even then they have much to learn. Germany has no empire air training scheme operated from a country like Canada, where flying is possible all the year round, so that the training speed is regulated by the vagaries of the weather. In the winter the number of days when flying is possible must be a mere fraction of the total. This was one of the reasons why Britain decided that it was necessary to have a training plan which would give full 12 months' service.

Since Germany started preparing for aggression against Russia, the number of machines maintained in Northern France, Holland, Belgium and Norway has been whittled down. Some of the German crews captured during night raids recently have been youngsters straight from the training school. Until a few days ago, it was much the same with fighter pilots who have had to oppose our daylight sweeps into occupied territory and Germany itself in the last few weeks. **They showed much evidence of being inexperienced.** The youngsters' inability to beat off our powerful day attack has now forced

Goering, no doubt much against his will, to recall some of his more experienced men from the eastern front.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that the German loss in trained flying crews has been serious. The Russian campaign should add to it considerably. Indeed, though accurate figures are hard to obtain, there is ample evidence that Germany is paying dearly in airmen and machines for her advance.

THE BATTLE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN.
A TURK SUMS UP.
GERMANY'S LAST TRUMP CARD.

by

E. I. Benidje, from "Son Telegraph", Istanbul, of 1—6—41.

To drive Britain out of the Mediterranean would mean driving her out of Africa, Arabia and Asia Minor. The result would be the end of British prestige in the Far East, India and Central Asia, and might induce Japan and even the U.S.S.R. to take action. Anglo-American collaboration would then be limited to the Atlantic and the British Isles. It would also mean the realisation of the Axis plan, which aims at world domination. The war would go on for many more years but Germany would in the meantime have secured the means of countering the wearing down tactics of the other side.

Nevertheless, the situation at present apparently gives no cause for the belief that Germany is on the way of attaining her objective. This war, which Germany has started and provoked, is now entering its most difficult stage. The whole of Europe is under the complete domination of Germany, who now finds herself struggling against a thousand difficulties and obstacles. By means of her preparations, extending over several years, Germany has taken Europe by surprise and has triumphed easily, but now that the war has passed beyond the seas new difficulties have arisen. To be master of all the continents requires, to begin with, mastery of all the surrounding seas. Germany is relying on her parachutists, her aircraft and her submarines. But these will not suffice to transport a whole army over hundreds of miles, in order to subjugate other continents.

Germany still seeks to attain her objective with great tenacity, and no thought for the serious losses she is sffering. Yet it is difficult to imagine that the final result will be in her favour. Germany has mobilised all her resources and is trying to drive the British fleet out of the Mediterranean. She is playing her last trump card and hopes towin the game before the autumn.

Britain on the other hand is trying to maintain her supremacy in the Mediterranean. There is every indication, although it is going to be a difficult task, that the British will be able to hold out till the autumn, and if they do, Britain will be able to face the winter with confidence.

During the winter she will increase her power of attack and her freedom of movement, and will undoubtedly grow stronger, because American aid will then have developed to its full capacity.

In order to achieve this result Britain must at all costs maintain her present position. If Germany does not succeed in attaining her objective before next winter she will find herself in a difficult position.

THE AXIS SPEAKS—AND IS ANSWERED.

A Commentary on Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East.

For the period—August 11—17, 1941.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT.

"The economic position of the Indians is getting worse day by day." (*German news in Hindustani, Aug. 12*).

In one year alone the export of articles wholly or mainly manufactured in India increased by Rs. 33 crores and 63 lakhs. India's export of rubber manufactures increased eleven times, exports of cotton yarns nearly doubled, and the exports of jute manufactures, iron and steel, chemicals and leather goods all registered substantial increases.

"Today the rulers of India at the edge of the sword are freely plundering her wealth and are dispatching her foodstuffs in ships to England, Egypt, Malaya, etc., so much so that some areas in Sind and the Bombay Presidency are threatened with famine." (*German news in Hindustani, Aug. 12*),

It is only rations for Indian troops abroad that are provided from India. Nor are these paid for by the Indian public, for the cost of all rations dispatched to war theatres is debitable to the United Kingdom Government. Moreover, since the indigenous items of food sent to Indian troops abroad are the same as they would normally consume in this country, no scarcity—much less, famine—is created thereby.

INCAUTIOUS COMPARISON.

"The battle of Smolensk was a catastrophe for the Bolsheviks similar to the battle of Dunkirk for Britain." (*German News in English, Aug. 13*).

It was a catastrophe for Dr. Goebbels similar to the battle of Dunkirk, of which he declared (May 28, 1940) "it is now impossible for Britain to withdraw her troops." We could wish Russia nothing better than to be in the same position a year hence as is Britain a year after Dunkirk.

TURKEY AND EGYPT SLANDERED.

"The guarantee of the British and Soviets to Turkey in the event of war has been received with great resentment amongst Turkish diplomatic circles.........The British guarantee has been rejected by Turkey............ Turkey could not be duped." (*German News in Persian and Arabic, Aug. 15*).

Half an hour before this Nazi farrago Ankara Radio quoted in Urdu, Persian and Arabic Deputy Yaltchin's editorial comments in the Turkish paper *Yeni Sabah*, as follows: "These notes have clarified all misconceptions. This move on the part of our friends has created real joy in us......We are pleased to hear words of sympathy from our friends."

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941— **LECTURE LIX**—(*Batch 2*).

August	...30, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	31, Sunday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Vayalogam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kudumiamalai ...	6.30 p. m.
September	...1, Monday ...	Nachandupatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Virachilai ...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Tuesday ...	Nallur ...	6.00 p. m.
		Mandayur ...	6.30 p. m.
	3, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil ...	10.15 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		Tirumayyam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Konapet ...	6.30 p. m.
	4, Thursday ...	Panayappatti ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rangiam ...	6.30 p. m.
	5, Friday ...	Rajagiri ...	6.00 p. m.
		Viralimalai ...	6.30 p. m.

LECTURE LX—(*Batch 3*).

	6, Saturday ...	Town Hall ...	6.30 p. m.
	7, Sunday ...	Alangudi ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rasiamangalam ...	6.30 p. m.
	8, Monday ...	College (A) English ...	10.15 a. m.
		Tiruvappur ...	5.30 p. m.
		Kulipirai ...	6.00 p. m.
		Sevalur ...	6.30 p. m.
	9, Tuesday ...	Kottaikkadu ...	6.00 p. m.
		Karambakkudi ...	6.30 p. m.
	10, Wednesday	C. S. M. High School ...	10.00 a. m.
		College (B) Tamil ...	10.15 a. m.
		Rani's High School ...	10.15 a. m.
		Ramachandrapuram ...	6.00 p. m.
		Rayavaram ...	6.30 p. m.
	11, Thursday ...	Annavasal ...	6.00 p. m.
		Kilakkurichi ...	6.30 p. m.
	12, Friday ...	Valramanikkam ...	6.00 p. m.
		Yembal ...	6.30 p. m.

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